

to show for it? Why is it that many people, many families, have to have two jobs just to make ends meet?

I think we can summarize everything in two words: the tax trap. It is simple to explain. It is simply this: the harder you work, the more taxes Washington makes you pay. The more taxes you pay, the longer and harder you have to work. You end up working harder and longer, and Washington ends up with more but you end up with less.

It is like the old doodle bugs we used to catch when we were kids, Mr. Speaker. The doodle bug builds a cylindrical trap. Ants come walking by and they fall into the cylindrical trap, and then they try to dig themselves out. The harder the ant digs, the more dirt falls on the ant. Then that doodle bug is just sitting there with his pinchers ready and his mouth wide open, and when that ant is exhausted, the doodle bug comes up, grabs him, and sucks him on down.

That is what is happening to middle-class America right now. We are just working harder and harder, trying to get out of this big trap set by the Washington bureaucracy, and Washington, just like the doodle bug, is winning.

When I was a child, Mr. Speaker, the biggest investment a family made was the family home, but today it is taxes. We send more money to the tax collector than we spend on food, clothing, and shelter combined.

My parents grew up in an America that promised that if they worked hard and saved and did the right thing, you too could enjoy the American dream. But today children in my generation and the many generations coming after me are afraid they are not going to be able to share in that American dream.

The Washington bureaucracy, though, has enjoyed it. They have enjoyed this fruits of our labor. Today the bureaucracy in Washington has grown to an all-time high. Our Government alone costs us \$1.6 trillion a year, Mr. Speaker. It is way out of control. It has 160 different Federal job training programs, 240 different Federal education programs, 300 economic development programs, and 500 urban aid programs. How much is enough, Mr. Speaker? The fact is all these programs are probably well-intended, but they take money off the table of middle-class America.

Look at the President of the United States. He ran under a promise of a middle-class tax cut and instead passed the largest tax increase in the history of the country. Today, because of President Clinton's policy, the typical family pays \$2,600 more in taxes than they did on election day 1992—and think about the insecurity the middle-class Americans have.

I think about Karen Goddard. Karen and I worked together for about 10 years. Karen and Ian had 2 incomes and they had 4 kids. Despite the fact that they worked hard, it was very difficult to get those kids' college education

paid for, even though they had done everything right, Mr. Speaker, it still did not matter.

I think about people like Charles Sieler and Tracy Smith, who are going to be getting married in July. Once they get married, Mr. Speaker, their tax burden will become higher than it is individually because of their horrible marriage tax penalty where we actually tax people more once they are married than they were as single people before them.

I think about people of my dad's generation and—now I am getting up there, I am 41 years old; my dad and his friends, my old teachers, my Sunday school teacher, the people who used to drive me to Little League, and the people who used to drive me to the Dairy Queen on hot Sunday afternoons—elder senior Americans that I have known all my life. Now it is their turn to retire and enjoy the fruits of their labor, but they are not sure that Medicare is going to be there tomorrow and all of them are on Medicare, Mr. Speaker.

We have got to have fundamental changes in Washington, because our policies affect real people with real problems. This tax trap, Mr. Speaker, is really sucking us all in. We have got to break free of it. I believe we have to have fundamental reform in Washington. We have to change our education system, to put more local autonomy in the program. We need to have legal reform. We need to change the Washington bureaucracy. We need to have a health care plan that is more affordable and more accessible.

Mr. Speaker, these are the policies this Congress is moving toward. We need to continue these reforms. I am proud to work on them.

SYSTEM IN NEED OF CHANGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. NEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, today down in Bellaire, OH, a town in my district, something was said to me at Rogers Barber Shop that is said virtually every single day in my district as I go about talking to people. That was from a constituent who said, "You've got to balance the Nation's budget, you've got to do it for the children, we've got to do it now."

Then that gentleman proceeded to talk about how in fact he had opportunity when he was being raised down in the Ohio valley. I stop to think about it, and hardly a day goes by that I do not have a young couple that comes up to me and tells me that they wonder about their future and the future of their children.

Mr. Speaker, I would have to ask a few questions. Why are so many families struggling to keep their heads above water? Why has it become so difficult for families in this country to make it? I believe that we can summarize it in the 3 words that has been said

best by my colleague from Georgia, the tax trap. It is the tax trap on working American men and women. It is a cycle. It is a vicious cycle. It is never ending on people in this country, Mr. Speaker.

Some people believe that the answer lies in Washington DC. It does not. For decades Washington, DC has told the American people that everything is okay while it continued to spend the inheritance of children and undermine their very future.

As I went around my district and did a lot of Memorial Day events with our fine veterans, I saw a lot of young people, Mr. Speaker. I looked at my own children, Bobby and Kayla, wondering what opportunity they are going to have, wondering what opportunity other young people are going to have in this country. I wonder if they are going to have the same kind of opportunity I had when I was raised 41 years ago, when a debt was not hung upon my neck to pay, unlike today. A child born today in this country is going to owe \$187,000 over their working lifetime to pay for the past spending habits of this room.

That is not right, it is not fair, and it is not morally correct to do that to young people, Mr. Speaker.

Every day working families who have been so hard hit in the 18th Congressional District of Ohio as they have across this country, especially in the industrialized areas that were ravaged by the bureaucrats in this Government and by the overspending of Washington, every single day those working people have to sit down at their dinner table and they have to balance their budget, and Washington did not. That is the problem, Mr. Speaker. Past tax-and-spend policies are not the way to provide opportunity for working people.

And people have insecurity these days. I can only think of the married couple that wants to buy that piece of the American dream, the home. I can only think of the thirtysomethings who are accumulating debt that they cannot pay. I can only think about the couples in their forties and fifties who are desperately trying to do the right thing and save for their future, and I think of America's seniors, America's seniors who paid their dues and who deserve the best and deserve for Medicare to be their for them.

Those are the Americans that I can think of. Those are the real people. Not inside the Beltway in Washington, Mr. Speaker, but the real people that every single day have to go out and earn a living and have to provide opportunity for their families.

It is not right what has been done in Washington. Enough is enough. It is time to draw the line in the sand. It is time to give people back their ability to control their destiny.

Mr. Speaker, corporate America also needs to produce a healthy environment and healthy bottom line for working Americans. Corporate America needs to be involved in job training,

employee education, and involved in the community. That does not mean that we need to rip down the corporations, but we need to be able to create a job and people need to be able to have a job. Corporate America has got to help with that take-home power. Corporate America has got to be a player in this system, Mr. Speaker. It has got to be sensitive to the working people, as Congress needs to be sensitive to the working people of this country.

We also need legal reform. The country has come into a sense of lawsuit madness and that in itself also has to end.

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With all due respect, the trial lawyers are totally out of control in this country. We need to make fundamental changes in Washington, DC, to have a better, brighter, cleaner, safer future for our children.

It is about the wallet, Mr. Speaker, the money that the working people of this country put into the wallet and the money this Government takes out. And under our plan, and we want to join together with the other side of the aisle, working Americans are going to have more of their own hard earned money to spend for their futures.

WASHINGTON'S SPENDING HAS UNDERMINED OUR FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the answer for too many people lies in Washington as a solution for all problems. For decades Washington has told America that everything is OK, while it spent our children's and grandchildren's inheritance and undermined their future. For too long Washington has spent more than it takes in, spent your hard earned tax dollars unwisely just to pay for a growing bureaucracy, a bureaucracy that includes 160 different job training programs, 240 educational programs, 300 economic development programs, and 500 urban aid programs.

How has Washington afforded these programs? By raising your taxes through the roof. Just ask Bill Clinton. He was not in office 100 days before attempting to take even more of your hard earned dollars. By comparison, Republicans spent our first 100 days trying to cut taxes.

The fact is virtually every year you send more of your hard earned dollars to Washington and that leaves less for you and your family. Do you ever wonder why the President and the Democrats are asking you to sacrifice a little more so Washington could spend a little more? Should not we demand Washington spend less so that you can keep more? After all, it is your money.

It should not surprise anyone that more and more American families find

it difficult to make ends meet; that more and more Americans are forced to live from paycheck to paycheck; that too many Americans want to put something away for the future but cannot; that almost everybody feels the squeeze from rising prices and higher taxes.

The Republican majority is making a difference by making sure we have a line item veto, which passed; a balanced budget. We have regulatory reform and unfunded mandate reform. All of these have led to a stronger economy and less of your tax dollars going out the window.

Against unanimous Republican opposition, the President imposed the largest tax hike in American history in 1993. The cost of the President's policies for a typical family in higher taxes and lower earnings is \$2,600, and all of us have felt the crunch. The tax trap costs a lot of money, and higher taxes means less savings and a more uncertain future. The Republican policies that we have put forward and have been adopted by this House, will put our course and our financial security back on track and are making a difference every day.

What we are trying to do here is part of the revolution of change that is positive and good for all Americans. Stay tuned further.

THE TAX TRAP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. HAYWORTH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, this evening we have heard my colleagues talk about the tax trap, the tax trap which has enmeshed so many Americans who fall victim to this simple observation which history and simple mathematics would bear out: The harder you work and the more you succeed, the more Washington and the Washington bureaucracy takes from you.

I realize this is deadly serious business, Mr. Speaker, because we are talking about real people with real concerns and the genuine future of this Nation at stake. And not to make light of this, but to bear it out in one of its forms, I am reminded of the Walt Disney production, "The Parent Trap," because the tax trap for our citizens is all too often a parent trap. This is what I mean.

So often now, across the width and breadth of this country parents, both parents, in a household are working oft-times not because of choice but because of trying to move their family beyond this tax trap. Quite often a spouse goes to work simply to try and satisfy the tax bite; simply to try to lift the family out of this hole created by more and more taxation, and the incessant need of this bureaucracy to ask for more and more money from average Americans.

My colleague from Pennsylvania articulated it, talked about the largest

tax increase in American history given to this Nation by people who used to sit in the majority in this very room along with a President who said on the campaign trail that middle-class America needed tax relief, and yet turned around not 100 days into his term and gave us the largest tax increase in American history.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of playground taunts, we have heard a lot of name calling. The word extreme has been bandied about, and dare I say in extreme fashion. Well, Mr. Speaker, it is fair to ask this question. For those who would throw out the word extreme with such ease, what is so wrong about asking Washington to live within its means? What is so wrong about demanding that Washington not spend so extravagantly as to sacrifice our children's future? And is it fair, Mr. Speaker, to punish working families who are playing by the rules and trying to provide for their family's future?

The good news is that this new majority in Congress, working with a lot of folks, quite candidly, on the other side of the aisle who are willing to own up to these problems, trying to move past partisan bickering, together we have fashioned a constructive way to deal with these problems, to balance our Federal budget, to roll back the tax bite and try to eliminate the tax trap; to try to save health care and Medicare for future generations without bankrupting the generations who must pay for it.

That is the mission we face, and, again, we would ask the President of the United States to join with us in a constructive program for the future.

It is a tragedy, Mr. Speaker, that our President and his term of office thus far has been defined not by accomplishments. Indeed, now, Mr. Speaker, the question is not what can the President accomplish, but, said, Mr. Speaker, the question has become, especially in the wake of recent revelations, how can this President explain it away this time? What rhetorical device, what language can he use, what verbal contortions can be brought to bear to avoid the problem and escape the responsibility?

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve us to act responsibly, to save this Nation for today's seniors and for our children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HOKE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

REFORM OF THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May